

even their homes—while they wait for their government to act.

I support responsible proposals to reform the disability appeals processing system. I have urged congressional appropriators to provide appropriate funding to help the Social Security Administration reduce the appeals backlog and reduce the wait for disabled Americans.

Disabled Americans have a huge stake in the fight to strengthen Social Security's solvency. Plans to privatize Social Security put the income security of American workers at risk—especially workers whose careers are cut short by a disabling illness or injury.

With more than 230,000 Ohioans currently receiving Social Security disability benefits, there is too much at stake to play games with Social Security's future.

It's appropriate for us to gather to celebrate the ADA—an important first step. Working together, we can fix these and other roadblocks for the millions of Americans who live full lives every day with disabilities.

RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE 22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Stupak/Brady resolution. Our resolution will commemorate the 22nd annual National Night Out event which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

I would like to thank my friend Congressman BRADY for cosponsoring this legislation with me once again this year. This bipartisan resolution has been supported by dozen of House Members for several years running and I am pleased we have another opportunity to highlight this important event again this year.

National Night Out, a nationwide grassroots crime prevention event, will take place on Tuesday, August 2. The event brings together involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, and civic groups throughout the U.S. to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

This has been a key part of America's community crime prevention success over the past two decades.

Community crime prevention is one of the most proven and effective ways to help law enforcement officials win the battle against crime. Whether it is stopping illegal drug sales, making schools safer, locating missing children, or remaining vigilant against terrorism, local law enforcement officials depend on the support of community networks to succeed.

The active involvement of citizens and the presence of local law enforcement in communities is a winning combination that makes and keeps neighborhoods safe.

Our resolution expresses Congress' support for community crime prevention and asks that the President focus Federal attention on the issue.

With this in mind, we hope that you will show your support for the community crime prevention efforts of citizens and police in your district and across the nation. Vote for the Stupak/Brady National Night Out Resolution.

COMMENDING PROGRESS IN LEBANON

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for her visit to Lebanon last week, which recently held elections for a new Parliament. During her brief stay, Secretary Rice asserted the necessity for the uninhibited growth of democracy in that region and demanded the complete removal of foreign occupiers.

Lebanon carries in its history a long tradition of foreign occupation. After plunging into civil war in 1975, Syrian troops forcefully occupied Lebanon. Throughout subsequent decades, the Syrian military unjustly held Beirut, with their tenure characterized by violent bombings and raids on the Lebanese people. The United States has long opposed this occupation of Lebanon, and Congress has continually insisted on their removal.

Syrian and Iranian sponsorship of terrorist ally Hezbollah threatens the emerging Lebanese democracy. I praise the heroic Lebanese citizens on their insistence for the Syrian exodus in early 2005, despite the Hezbollah security threats. I also laud them on their fair elections for their first National Assembly after the termination of the Syrian presence. Accordingly, this provides an opportune time for self-determination and democratic changes in the region.

It is imperative that the U.S. continues to support Lebanon's desire for full security control and territorial autonomy so this budding democracy can materialize. Yet as Lebanon gains control over their country, they should simultaneously avoid isolating themselves from their neighbors. Israel and Lebanon share a number of parallel interests and could markedly benefit from stronger relations with the other. Syria has strangled trade with Lebanon since their withdrawal; additionally, trade between all three nations has essentially come to a standstill recently. There should be a push for increased commercial exchanges between Israel and Lebanon, especially with the United States through the Qualifying Industrial Zone. I recommend that as Lebanon stabilizes and secures itself as a viable democracy, we consider their addition to the QIZ, which would encourage the Middle East peace process via economic integration.

Assuring that emerging democracies in the Middle East are safe and stable should be a top priority of the U.S. With respect to Iraq, much work still remains. This administration, through Operation Iraqi Freedom, has presented a poorly executed plan to instill democracy in Iraq. I believe that what America, Iraq, and the Middle East at large need is a plan for success. My amendment to the State Department Authorization Act called for a plan for a success in Iraq, this accepted bipartisan amendment calls on the President to present a strategy indicating how we would provide for a stable Iraqi government and strong Iraqi police force, hence allowing for a lessened US presence there. This could be done by mobilizing an international effort through increased presence of NATO forces in Iraq. NATO participation in Iraq would open up the doors for other non-NATO countries to share the burden

of the war. Furthermore, we should also better train the Iraqi military police, hence providing real security to the communities of Iraq.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR EDWARD BROWN, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Major Edward Brown, Jr., who has distinguished himself with extraordinarily meritorious service during his 30-year career in the United States Army, leading up to a commendable tenure at Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. A long-standing track record of superior and dedicated leadership proves that Sergeant Major Brown is the kind of leader that other soldiers try to emulate and that the Army recognizes as the exemplary soldier.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Brown has been an exceptional, active, and inspiring leader. His positions of leadership include those of squad leader, platoon sergeant, battalion motor sergeant and maintenance non-commissioned officer in charge, multiple tours as company sergeant, and most recently Sergeant Major at Letterkenny Army Depot.

In the past 10 years Sergeant Brown has served in extraordinary places, such as Germany, Bosnia, Ft. Campbell, Ft. Huachuca, and Letterkenny, and has made significant contributions to each. In each location he held positions of leadership, with a responsibility for the welfare of soldiers, units, installations, and civilian members of the defense workforce.

Notable in Sergeant Major Brown's career is his tour of duty at Letterkenny Army Depot. He served 4 years there, and personally made tremendous and direct contributions and changes to the Depot. When Sergeant Major Brown arrived on July 1, 2001, the Depot was in a state of decline and malaise due to the fact that it had already undergone three rounds of the Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) process. Sergeant Major Brown was instrumental in the mission of turning the depot around, bringing renewed vigor and a sense of purpose into the workplace.

Sergeant Major Brown began his tenure at Letterkenny at a most inauspicious time, just prior to the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001. He immediately increased the Force Protection posture required by the attacks on the United States. Because of the open terrain and layout that characterize the Depot, the task of securing the mission and personnel at Letterkenny was made even more difficult. However, Sergeant Major Brown worked tirelessly with the organic guard assets of the Depot and with newly assigned troops from the National Guard and Reserve to ensure that Letterkenny remained secure until all immediate danger had passed.

Sergeant Major Brown, working as part of the Command Team, inspired and moved the workforce forward through post-modernization and beautification programs, LEAN implementation, and proactive leadership. As a result of his guidance, Letterkenny improved so much that the Depot has been selected to grow in the next BRAC round, an accomplishment that may be traced directly to his personal efforts.

During Sergeant Major Brown's career he has participated in Operation Desert Storm and Shield, Operation Joint Endeavor, and the global war on terrorism. Sergeant Major Brown has also been recognized by his peers for exceptional service and dedication, and has been awarded the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharp Medal; he is also a member of the Audie Murphy Club. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Major Edward Brown, Jr. has played a crucial role in the defense of the United States and in the service of other citizens. It is because of this that I wish to acknowledge him today.

IN HONOR OF MS. WANDA MADGE JONES, THE 2004 MS. TEXAS SENIOR AMERICA

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Wanda Madge Jones, the 2004 Ms. Texas Senior America. The Ms. Senior America pageant is aimed at enriching the lives of senior citizens by raising social awareness through education and community service, while promoting the dignity and value of America's seniors.

Ms. Jones has taught dance for over 50 years to over 50,000 students as the owner of the Arabesque Studio of Dance in Dallas, Texas. As a performer, Ms. Jones has been in over 10,000 productions, showcasing her talent by entertaining our troops with the USO during both WWII and the Korean War, including a one time performance for Franklin Roosevelt.

Ms. Jones is active in multiple organizations where she strives to celebrate senior women and their accomplishments, while cultivating her own personal growth through community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing the many achievements of Ms. Jones, an entrepreneur and true patriot whose hard work and commitment has inspired those around her to achieve great feats in the face of adversity.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, nearly 5 years in the making, the energy bill passed by the House should have provided a vision for addressing our long term energy needs.

Instead, the bill sacrifices our long term economic, national, and environmental security for the short term advantage of oil companies and other energy producers.

Thankfully, some of the most extreme provisions were deleted from the final bill. The provision to give oil refiners liability protection for the damage done to drinking water supplies by the gasoline additive MTBE was removed from the bill. If this provision had been adopted, local communities would be responsible for \$29 to \$85 billion in cleanup costs resulting from MTBE contamination.

The provision opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to drilling was also dropped, but the Majority leadership has promised to pass it in separate legislation.

Despite these omissions, the bill remains deeply flawed. New provisions were added and key policy challenges were not addressed.

The bill fails to address our growing dependence on foreign oil. Today we import more than half of the oil we use, and in 20 years, nearly 70 percent of our oil will come from overseas—whether or not this bill is signed into law.

By doing little to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we're making ourselves dependent on OPEC and countries that might not share our interests.

This is a concern shared by a number of national security experts of diverse political viewpoints. In a letter to the President sent on March 24th of this year, the Energy Future Coalition (which includes former Reagan Administration National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane, former CIA Director James Woolsey, former Reagan Administration Assistant Defense Secretary Frank Gaffney, and former President George H.W. Bush's Counsel C. Boyden Gray) stated:

The United States' dependence on imported petroleum poses a risk to our homeland security and economic well-being.

With only two percent of the world's oil reserves but 25 percent of current world consumption, the United States cannot eliminate its need for imports through increased domestic production alone.

Since 40 percent of the 20 million barrels of oil we burn every day is used in passenger automobiles, we should be increasing automobile fuel economy requirements, but efforts to add those requirements to this bill were rejected.

Compounding the problem, the bill doesn't invest sufficiently in renewable alternatives. Only about 20 percent of the bill's \$11 billion in tax incentives will go toward developing renewable energy resources which can replace fossil fuels.

The bill fails to address high gasoline prices. Rather than reducing gas prices, the bill guarantees that they'll go up by requiring that at least 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol be blended into gasoline by 2012—triple the current level. According to the Energy Information Administration, the independent forecasting agency within the Department of Energy, this mandate could force consumers to pay an extra \$1.7 billion per year once it's fully implemented.

The bill weakens coastal protections and threatens the environment.

The bill requires an inventory of oil and natural gas resources in offshore areas where drilling is now prohibited, allowing pre-drilling activities in these areas. This includes Coastal California.

The bill undermines the ability of states to ensure that liquefied natural gas, LNG, terminals are properly sited and operate safely.

The bill provides oil and gas drilling operations exemptions under the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The bill fails to address global climate change.

The bill fails to compensate Western consumers for overcharges by electricity generators. The National Energy Policy developed by

Vice President CHENEY was billed in part as a response to the Western "energy crisis" of 2000 and 2001, but there was never an effort to compensate consumers for the market manipulation that occurred in California and the western U.S. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission arbitrarily limited the amount of refunds consumers could receive. My repeated efforts to add language to fully compensate consumers were rejected.

Conclusion. Energy touches all aspects of public policy: Public health, the environment, the economy, and national security. In the coming years and decades, the global competition for non-renewable energy resources will become more frantic. The bill passed by the Congress does not respond to that challenge, and it is comprehensive only in the sense that it contains a hodge-podge of special interest provisions that will benefit each segment of the energy production industry. Supporters of the bill have said that after 5 years we can't afford to kick the can down the road. With this bill, that's exactly what's happened.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, as a general principle, removing trade barriers and creating new opportunities for the export of American manufactured goods and services in today's global economy should be one of the highest priorities for those of us involved in setting national policy.

Economically, politically and strategically, our nation is better and stronger when there is a free flow of commerce, accompanied by the free exchange of ideas and information between the United States and the major economies of the world. Of course we benefit from the growth of potential markets for U.S. goods, but there is also an enormous mutual benefit when the people of other nations are exposed to the shining example of our democratic system of governance and the merits of a free market economy. Just look at the nations who trade freely and compare them—and the conditions their people endure—with the nations whose economies are essentially closed to external commerce such as North Korea. Just last week in this Chamber during the Joint Session of Congress we witnessed a major address by the Prime Minister of India, a nation whose relatively swift progression to an open economy has lifted millions of people in India out of poverty as they have become a major trading partner of the United States. Not only are we selling more and more U.S. goods to India today, but because of our enhanced economic influence in this area of South Asia, the strategic interests of the United States have been strengthened at a critical time in this region.

We have before us in the House today an opportunity to take another major step forward in promoting free trade and democracy: the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America